

REMARKS

Claims 18, 20, 22-28, 30-33 are pending in the application; claims 1-17, 19, 21, 29, and 34 are canceled.

Rejection under 35 U.S.C. 103

Claims 18-20, 23-28, 33, 34 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Funkai et al.* in view of *Bittner, Jr.*

Claim 18 has been amended to include the features of claims 19 and 21 so that the above rejection no longer applies. The claim 18 should thus be allowable together with dependent claims 20, 22-24.

Claim 25 has been amended to include the features of claim 29 so that the above rejection no longer applies. Claim 25 should thus be allowable together with claims 26-28 and 33.

Claim 22 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Funkai et al.* in view of *Bittner, Jr.* and *Smith et al.* Claim 22 depends from amended claim 18 and should thus be allowable.

Claim 34 has been canceled.

ALLOWABLE SUBJECT MATTER

Claims 21 and 29 to 32 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Claim 18 has been amended to include the features of claims 19 and 21 and is thus presented in allowable form.

Claim 25 has been amended by incorporating therein the features of claim 29 and is thus presented in allowable form.

Claim 30 has been amended by incorporating therein the features of claim 25 from which it depends and is thus presented in allowable form.

Claim 31 has been amended by incorporating therein the features of claim 25 from which it depends and is thus presented in allowable form; claim 32 should be allowable as a dependent claim of claim 31.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, it is submitted that this application is now in condition for allowance and such allowance is respectfully solicited.

The application now contains **four independent claims**. The fee in the amount of **\$100.00** for one extra independent claim in excess of three is to be charged to credit card (PTO-2038 attached).

Should the Examiner have any further objections or suggestions, the undersigned would appreciate a phone call or **e-mail** from the examiner to discuss appropriate amendments to place the application into condition for allowance.

Authorization is herewith given to charge any fees or any shortages in any fees required during prosecution of this application and not paid by other means to Patent and Trademark Office deposit account 50-1199.

Respectfully submitted on March 8, 2005,

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